

*Bills would support hiring veterans, raise the cost of living wage for service-disabled veterans*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna** this week supported two bills that will ensure we take care of our nation's veterans at home – through ensuring their skills are recognized and that those who are disabled receive a cost of living increase.

H.R. 4155, the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act and H.R. 4114, the Veterans Cost of Living Adjustment Act, both of which were approved by the House Monday. The Veteran Skills to Jobs Act passed unanimously and the Veterans Cost of Living Adjustment Act passed by voice vote. Rep. Hanna said he was pleased to support both measures to support and assist our service men and women.

**"The sacrifices made by members of our military benefit the safety and security of all Americans," Rep. Hanna said. "As a nation, we must continue to strive to provide all we can to those who commit themselves in service to this country. Now, skills that are learned in military service will be fully recognized by all federal agencies and eliminate the need for unnecessary and/or redundant certifications or training. In addition, service-disabled veterans and their families will see a raise in their benefits, which they so richly deserve."**

## **ABOUT THE BILLS**

### **H.R. 4155, Veteran Skills to Jobs Act**

- There are approximately 200,000 servicemen and women who transition to the civilian workforce each year. Under current law, the federal licensing and credentialing process does not account for most skills acquired in the military. Examples of such licenses include positions in the aviation and maritime industries.

- This bill directs the head of each federal department and agency to consider, and possibly

accept, any relevant training received by members of the armed forces that could satisfy the training or certification requirements for federal licenses. The measure also requires each department or agency to issue any regulations necessary to carry out the bill within 180 days of enactment.

- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that this bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

### **H.R. 4144, Veterans COLA Increase**

- This bill increases the amounts paid to veterans for disability compensation and to their survivors for dependency and indemnity compensation by the same cost-of-living adjustment payable to Social Security recipients (expected to be 1.3%). The increase would take effect on Dec. 1, 2012, and the results of the adjustment would be rounded to the next lowest dollar.
- The VA estimates it will provide disability compensation to approximately 3.6 million veterans with service-connected disabilities in FY 2013.
- The VA estimates it will pay benefits to nearly 400,000 survivors in FY 2013, a total that includes surviving spouses, children and needy surviving parents.